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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Geva Announces its 49th Season to Begin in January 2022

Artistic Director Mark Cuddy's final season with the theatre will feature eight productions on a modified calendar.

Rochester, N.Y., August 19, 2021 – Geva Theatre Center's Artistic Director Mark Cuddy and Executive Director Christopher Mannelli are proud to announce the eight productions that will comprise the theatre's 49th Season. Due to scheduling adjustments made by the theatre in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, productions for the upcoming season will run from January through July 2022. As recently announced, this will be Cuddy's final season with Geva after 27 years.

Audiences can look forward to a broadly appealing selection of theatrical works, including an electrifying show about people who play invisible instruments, a zigzagging love story unfolding in the multiverse, a modern dramedy by one of the playwrights from last Fall's Recognition Radio series, the world-premiere of a new musical inspired by *The Wizard of OZ*, the tale of a woman living her entire life on display, an irreverent comedy about yoga capitalism, an exhilarating solo piece by Mohegan theatre-maker Madeline Sayet, and a hilariously joyful hit musical based on a popular movie.

"Our 49th Season captures everything that is theatrically meaningful to me: humor, adventure, topicality, music, new writing, deep relationships, and the opportunity for virtuosic acting," said Geva Artistic Director Mark Cuddy. "For my farewell as Artistic Director, I couldn't be prouder of what audiences will experience at the conclusion of my tenure."

"We are thrilled to be sharing this incredible season of productions with the Rochester community," said Geva Executive Director Christopher Mannelli. "We are so thankful to all who have supported Geva and can't wait to see our audiences again at the theater!"

Geva's established partnerships with other western New York theatres will continue in the upcoming season. Two selections will be co-productions with Syracuse Stage, and another is being produced by Kitchen Theatre in Ithaca, New York.

Ticket subscriptions for Season 49 are now on sale and may be purchased by calling the Geva Box Office at 585-232-4382. Subscribers to the current 2020-2021 Season have the opportunity to renew at discounted rates through October 5.

In a wonderful complement to the season, Geva will make an Off-Broadway splash beginning March 18 with a revival of their 2018 Fielding Stage production of *Heartland* by Gabriel Jason Dean at the 59E59 theatre in Manhattan. The full cast and artistic team will be reunited for the auspicious limited run. The intimate ensemble cast includes Mark Cuddy in his final on-stage role in a Geva production prior to retiring, along with Owais Ahmed and Mari Vial-Golden. The artistic team includes Pirronne Yousefzadeh (director), Meredith Reis (scenic designer), Dina El-Aziz (costume designer), Seth Reiser (lighting designer), Pornchanok Kanchanabanca (sound design & music), Jenni Werner (Dramaturg).

Beginning this fall with *Vietgone*, the final production of Geva Theatre Center's extended 2020-2021 Season and the theatre's first indoor show since March 2020, the venue will be requiring proof of vaccination for all patrons. Public health guidelines continue to be reassessed on an ongoing basis. Any modifications to COVID-related policies will be reflected on the company's website at GevaTheatre.org.

Geva's 49th Season

All plays, artists, and schedules are subject to change.

Airness

By Chelsea Marcantel

Directed by Skip Greer

Wilson Stage, January 11 – February 6

When Nina enters her first air guitar competition, she thinks winning will be a breeze. When she meets up with a group of loveable air-guitar nerds, each hell-bent on becoming the next champion, she learns there is more to this fringe hobby than meets the eye. As Nina gets drawn deeper into the scene, she discovers what achieving “airness” really means.

Constellations

By Nick Payne

Directed by Mark Cuddy

Fielding Stage, February 2 – 20

Marianne: *In the quantum multiverse, every choice, every decision you've ever made and never made exists in an unimaginably vast ensemble of parallel universes.*

Roland: *This is genuinely turning me on.*

When two people meet for the first time, an infinite number of possibilities for their future lay before them. What if they all happened? Science and romance collide in this clever exploration of love and free will in the multiverse.

How to Catch Creation

By Christina Anderson

Directed by Daniel J. Bryant

Wilson Stage, February 22 – March 20

A story that reverberates through generations, *How to Catch Creation* explores what makes a family, and what it means to find true fulfillment. In 2014, Griffin, Stokes, Riley and Tami are four artists

whose lives become entangled with each other as they experiment with new ways to express themselves. A joyful and unexpected encounter with the writings of a queer Black feminist from the 1960s challenges their understandings of justice, love and loyalty.

Somewhere Over the Border

By Brian Quijada

Directed by Rebecca Martinez

World Premiere *Co-production with Syracuse Stage*

Wilson Stage, March 30 – May 1

Inspired by the real-life journey of the writer's mother (Reina Quijada) from El Salvador to the US – and by L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* – *Somewhere Over the Border* embraces the factual and the fantastical in its depiction of one young girl's pursuit of the American dream. As Reina travels north to the Mexican border, she gathers friends, faces down dangers, and holds tight to the memory of the little boy she left behind. Set in the 1970s and propelled by cumbia, Mexican mariachi boleros, American rock and hip hop, this new musical is both fable and family history – and a testament to the determination born of love.

The Chinese Lady

By Lloyd Suh

Directed by TBD

A Kitchen Theatre Production

Fielding Stage, April 20 – May 8

In 1834, a 14-year-old girl is brought to the United States from Guangzhou Province. Allegedly the first Chinese woman to set foot in the U.S., she is put on display for the American public and billed as “The Chinese Lady.” For over 45 years, she is toured around the US as a sideshow act, accompanied by Atung, her assistant and closest acquaintance. Lloyd Suh's piercing tale, based on the true story of Afong Moy, examines the ways in which one woman's life is impacted by exploitation and the white gaze and explores the mystery surrounding Moy's later years.

Yoga Play

By Dipika Guha

Directed by Melissa Crespo

Co-production with Syracuse Stage

Wilson Stage, May 10 – June 5

Corporate yoga giant Jojomon is at the pinnacle of its game when a scandal sends the company into freefall. Joan, the newly hired CEO, risks everything on a wild plan to recover the company's earnings and reputation. *Yoga Play* is a provocative new comedy about confronting cultural appropriation and searching for authenticity in a world determined to sell enlightenment.

Where We Belong

Written and Performed by Madeline Sayet

Directed by Mei Ann Teo

National Tour

Fielding Stage, June 1 – 19

In 2015, Mohegan theatre-maker Madeline Sayet travels to England to pursue a PhD in Shakespeare. Madeline finds a country that refuses to acknowledge its ongoing role in colonialism, just as the Brexit vote threatens to further disengage the UK from the wider world. In this intimate and exhilarating solo piece, Madeline echoes a journey to England braved by Native ancestors in the 1700s following treatise betrayals – and forces us to consider what it means to belong in an increasingly globalized world.

Sister Act

Music by Alan Menken

Lyrics by Glenn Slater

Book by Cheri Steinkellner and Bill Steinkellner

Additional Book Material by Douglas Carter Beane

Based on the Touchstone Pictures Motion Picture, *Sister Act*, written by Joseph Howard

Directed & Choreographed by Julio Agustin

Wilson Stage, June 21 – July 24

What's the best place to hide a disco diva who just witnessed a mob hit? In a convent, of course! Delores Van Cartier takes cover and dons a habit, but she can't quite live up to the rigid expectations of Mother Superior. When she brings her disco talent to the convent choir, the word "sister" takes on new meaning as the public, the press – and the mob – take notice.

Nominated for five Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

About Geva Theatre Center

Geva Theatre Center is a nonprofit, professional theatre company in downtown Rochester, New York, offering world-class productions and extensive additional programming. Founded in 1972, Geva is the most well-attended regional theatre in New York State with one of the 25 largest subscription bases among regional theatres in the country. Geva serves as many as 160,000 patrons annually, including more than 20,000 students.

Geva's 517-seat Wilson Stage and 180-seat Fielding Stage each offer a wide-ranging collection of drama, comedy and musical theatre, from classics to world premieres. The company also offers a broad slate of educational, outreach and literary programming to enrich audiences, students and artists of all ages and disciplines. Since 1995, Geva has been under the artistic direction of Mark Cuddy.

Geva Theatre Center sits on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Onöndowa'ga, or "the people of the Great Hill." In English, they are known as the Seneca people, "the keeper of the western door." They have stewarded this land through generations, and Geva pays respect and gives thanks to their elders, past and present.

Find out more about Geva Theatre Center at GevaTheatre.org or by connecting with us on social media. Facebook: facebook.com/gevatheatrecenter, Twitter: [@gevatheatre](https://twitter.com/gevatheatre), Instagram: [@gevatheatre](https://instagram.com/gevatheatre), LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/geva-theatre-center.

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